

REDRUTH

Urban Sanitary District.

Medical Officer's Report for the year 1906.

POPULATION 1901, 10,450. AREA OF ACRES, 4,007.

During the year 1906, the births of 252 children, 136 male and 121 female, and the deaths of 172 persons, 87 male and 85 female, were registered. The birth-rate is therefore 24.7 and the death-rate 16.5, the natural increase being 85. The natural increase in 1905 was 98.

For comparison, I append a list of the birth and death-rates for each of the past ten years.

Birth-rate for past ten years.			Death-rate for past ten years.		
1897	.....	25.3	1897	.....	18.4
1898	.....	25.1	1898	.....	20.4
1899	.....	23.1	1899	.....	13.9
1900	.....	23.8	1900	.....	18.4
1901	.....	26.7	1901	.....	17.7
1902	.....	22.1	1902	.....	19.1
1903	.....	22.5	1903	.....	15.1
1904	.....	21.2	1904	.....	15.7
1905	.....	24.6	1905	.....	15.1
1906	.....	24.7	1906	.....	16.5

THE DEATHS.


Phthisis	..	..	25	Bright's Disease	..	..	7
Bronchitis	..	..	14	Meningitis	..	..	0
Heart Disease	..	..	16	Ear Disease	..	..	0
Cancer	..	.	24	Diabetes	..	..	1
Inquests	..	..	13	Zymotic—Typhoid Fever	..	..	0
Pneumonia	..	..	6	Continued Fever	..	..	0
Pleurisy	..	..	1	Diphtheria	..	..	0
Cirrhosis of Liver	..	..	1	Whooping Cough	..	..	0
Suicides	..	..	1	Scarlet Fever	..	..	0
Premature Births	..	..	5	Diarrhœa	..	..	0
Accidents	..	..	4	Influenza	..	..	0
Apoplexy	..	..	6	Measles	..	..	0
Convulsions	..	..	3	Erysipelas	..	..	0

Death-rate under 1 year old per thousand births, 105.

Zymotic death-rate per thousand population, .4.

FEVER.

No case of Typhoid Fever notified for the whole year—only one was notified in 1904, a man arriving in Redruth from South Africa in the 2nd week of the Fever, and only one case in 1903—a very good record in this respect. One case of Continued Fever—a young man working in one of the business houses of the Town. He had mild fever for 4 weeks; no symptoms that we associate with the diagnosis of Typhoid, but probably due to a mild infection with the Typhoid germ—although with Influenza frequently visiting us, it is a possible explanation that the Influenza germ may cause some of these cases of Fever continuing for 3 or 4 weeks. His work took him frequently into the country, and into a district where there has been a fair amount of Typhoid during the year, and as he always had dinner from home, and took a good quantity of water to drink, it is very likely he imbibed the mild Typhoid germ under these circumstances.



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SCARLET FEVER.

Five cases notified. They occurred in quite different parts of the district, and as there had been a Scarlet Fever epidemic in the neighbourhood—necessitating a closing of the schools—and we only had these few cases, the germs probably reached these children in this way. Each case was carefully isolated, and it was very satisfactory that in each of the five instances no one else contracted the illness from the sick one.

DIPHTHERIA.

One case notified—no death,—a well marked case in a female patient and shown to be of this nature by a bacteriological examination. It is very strange and unfathomable how this illness was contracted; her duties kept her the whole time in Redruth, sanitary surroundings quite satisfactory and no other case in the whole district. The Diphtheria antitoxin, as usual, was apparently of very great benefit.

INFLUENZA.

During the latter half of December we, in company with the whole of England, suffered from another recrudescence of Influenza of a mild and not serious type, but, still, large numbers were affected. It once again shewed itself undoubtedly infectious from one inmate to another and former attacks give no protection. No death.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

No cases.

MEASLES.

During November and December we suffered from an epidemic of Measles. It affected primarily the very young children, which produced a falling off in the attendance at the East End School. I visited the East End Schools and also the Trewirgie School and explained to those in charge that the rash of measles does not appear until the child has had measles for four days and that the child is very infectious during these four days, and shows indisposition by coughing and running at eyes and nose, as if suffering from a bad cold. I

asked that the children should be inspected each morning and any showing the above symptoms of a cold should be sent home and no return until quite well, and no child to come to school when there was any case of Measles at their homes—with these directions I did not consider it wise to close the schools, the holidays arrived without the Trewirgie Schools practically showing a falling off in the attendance. During the holidays I had every classroom of the East End School thoroughly disinfecied with Formaldehyde.

CANCER.

Deaths from Cancer during the last 6 years.

1901	...	12
1902	....	12
1903	....	3
1904	....	10
1905	...	8
1906	...	24

The largest number of deaths from Cancer in anyone year that there is any record of—nineteen of the twenty-four deaths were female, eight occurred on the stomach, two on the liver, and two on the tongue, fourteen were over 60 years of age and seven under 45.

DIARRHŒA.

Five deaths—all under 1 year, three of the five being under 5 months, an age at which all diseases are of course very fatal when of any severity, but babies under 12 months are especially intolerant of the slightest intestinal derangements and it is of extreme importance at this tender age that the mildest diarrhœa should receive prompt and sensible treatment, as a very large percentage of the fatal cases begin in this mild way, and the favourable opportunity for successful treatment at this stage is missed.

PHTHISIS.

Deaths from Phthisis and “South African Phthisis” for the last six months—

Total number of deaths from Phthisis.				South African Phthisis.	
1901	..	12	..	..	8
1902	..	21	..	..	11
1903	..	21	..	..	13
1904	..	20	..	..	9
1905	..	22	..	..	17
1906	..	25	..	..	11

All the deaths from South African Phthisis were under 40 years of age, except one, aged 42. Five occurred in Cornish miners who have never worked in any but the Cornish mines, the youngest of these five was 50 years of age, one 68 and one 79. This shows very strikingly the fact that when Cornish miners do die of this disease they very rarely succumb until comparatively old, while the history of the South African Phthisis during the last ten years has shown in no uncertain manner that even the strongest of our Cornishmen, and at ages when their resisting power to all diseases is at its very height, still their lungs cannot withstand the unfavourable condition that go with working the rock drills.

HEART DISEASE.

Sixteen deaths, no less than eleven being over 65 years of age, which practically means gradual cardiac failure on old people, the cold weather and a little Bronchitis being the final straw.

PNEUMONIA.

Six deaths. Two of the deaths in infants, ages respective, 14 and 18 months; one, aged 30, brought on by falling into a tin stream in an epileptic fit, and getting the lungs filled with the dirty water, another case in a woman, age 43, who had suffered from heart disease for many years, which makes it nearly impossible to cope with a Pneumonia of any severity.

BRONCHITIS.

Fourteen deaths. Four under one year of age, seven of the remaining ten were over 65.

APOPLEXY.

Six deaths, all over 65, the age when all arteries become more rigid and brittle, and especially the arteries of the brain.

BRIGHT'S DISEASE.

Seven deaths. The two great predisposing factors to this disease are too much food and too much alcohol, the excess of food probably causing a greater number of cases than even excess of drink.

NOTIFICATIONS.

Seventeen notifications—Erysipelas 10, Diphtheria 1, Continued Fever 1, Scarlet Fever 5.

INQUESTS.

There were thirteen Inquests cases during the year, and the deaths were attributed to the following causes : —

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Syncope, age 68, male. | 8. Injury, age 14, male. |
| 2. Syncope, age 55, „ | 9. Burns, „ 48, female. |
| 3. Injury, „ 59, „ | 10. Burns, „ 21, „ |
| 4. Scalds, „ 2, „ | 11. Intestinal Obstruction, age, 47, male. |
| 5. Syncope, „ 30, „ | 12. Epileptic Fit, age 29, male. |
| 6. Syncope, „ 59, „ | 13. Injury, age 21, male. |
| 7. Syncope, „ 50, female. | |

CONCLUSIONS.

The birth-rate 24.7, about the average for the last ten years.

The death-rate 16.5 also about the average. Again a remarkable absence of all infectious diseases, and of any disease which reflects on the sanitation of the district.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

No case admitted from the Urban District.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are six in the district, all registered, regularly inspected, and well kept.

COMMON LODGING HOUSE.

One Lodging House registered at East End. I have inspected it and report it to be in a sanitary state. No infectious disease notified during the year.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

These have been inspected during the year. The dairies in every instance were found clean, sanitary, and in order. New Bye-laws relating to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, have been passed during the year. I consider these new Bye-laws are a most important advance to the sanitary administration of all districts. I have frequently reported that although the dairies are invariably kept in all respects as they should be, care as regards the cleanliness and proper housing of the cows in this district as in all other districts is sadly lacking. These Bye-laws provide for the proper lighting, ventilation, cleaning, drainage and water supply of all cow houses; also cleanliness of all milk vessels and finally, a most important clause, compelling certain conditions to be adhered to which will prevent contamination of the milk, which at present must frequently take place direct from the cow, and also from the imperfectly clean hands of those milking. If such Bye-laws as we have passed are faithfully complied with throughout the country, the result must be less Tuberculosis in cows, and then less Tuberculosis in young children.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no offensive trades carried on in the district and there has not been any death, nor, as far as I can ascertain, any disease traceable to lead, arsenic or phosphorous poisoning.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS' ACT.

There has not been any prosecution under the Sale of Food and Drugs' Act during the year.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

I have made systematic inspections of the factories and workshops during the year and find the large proportion satisfactory as regards cleanliness, air space, ventilation and sanitary conveniences. There seems to be in all cases sufficient means of escape in case of fire.

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Medical Officer of Health.

Redruth, February, 1907.

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